



Rooted in Jesus report, Diocese of Mpwapwa, Tanzania, May 2011

Team: Bishop John Hayden (TL) , Canon Michael Samuel, Revd Samuel Luhuna, Geoff Stokes, Revd Brian Robertson

The seminars were held in two places - Kibaigwa and Kibakwe. Attendance was around 90 and 100 respectively. All sessions started on time and usually the participants were there waiting. The cooks also kept to time.

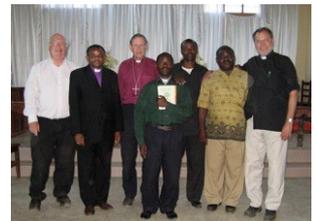
As in Morogoro, the seminars were supported by a generous grant from the Tanzania Church Partnership Association, which was used to assist the poorer pastors and evangelists who were in a situation where they had little food as the harvest is still around two months away.

Bishop Jacob attended every session of both seminars. He translated for Geoff and Brian and participated in the groups. His wife also attended both seminars and led one of the practice groups receiving a high commendation from the monitors. We had the support also of all other members of the diocesan hierarchy. The only person in the office who did not attend one of the seminars was the Bishop's secretary, as she was needed to keep the office open.

It was obvious that the course was highly appreciated at both venues by all who attended. However because of limiting numbers - cost and facilities - only half the pastors were trained. The Bishop is working with Mike Samuel to make sure all parishes have training and are using the course by the end of the year. There was a wide spread of participants - pastors, evangelists, women workers/ MU, youth workers and from the office. This means it has impacted the whole of diocesan life. So although not all pastors could attend. the Area (Rural) Deans all did.



The Bishop, from the start, appointed the Revd Christopher Mkali as coordinator. He is also in charge of TEE which means he has a budget to go round the diocese. He is a very active and able man and was exceptionally helpful throughout the seminars - although we hardly needed his help as Bishop Jacob was so attentive to every need.



By the end of the conferences it was clear that those leading and participating were fully conversant with the teaching method and the materials, and they left full of determination and confidence.

At the end of each seminar the Bishop asked for a solemn commitment for any coming forward for the certificate and books that they would start a group within 10 days - as he and his wife intended to do. Lists of potential names were brought to the Holy Table, a prayer made to God and then the certificate and books presented. In Kibakwe there followed an amazing ten minutes of dancing and rejoicing.



Pastors now plan to choose at least 2 for their group from each of their churches so that after a year each church would start one new group. The leaders of the new groups will have worked through books 1 and 2 before being trained as group leaders, and will continue to work through books 3 and 4 in their original group, and so will have pastoral support and monitoring.

So my report is one full of encouragement at what God is doing through his Holy Spirit with RinJ in Tanzania and elsewhere. All concerned with it should be massively encouraged and set about with renewed vigour to make use of this wide open door God has set before us. Doors often do not stay open for long. Each day is one we need to redeem for the glory of God.

+ John

Bishop Jacob writes: "It was a real blessing for us to have the Rooted in Jesus Seminars in our Diocese. We believe that the RinJ course came at the right time of our ministry. Thank you very much for your encouragement and financial support for the seminars. We look forward to the implementation of the materials in our churches."